

Youth Era: How to Engage within a Rural Community

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Youth Era: Our Mission

- Mission: Youth Era works to empower young people and create breakthroughs within the dedicated systems that serve them
- Youth Era has 5 drop-in centers throughout the state of Oregon:
 - Eugene
 - Salem
 - Medford
 - Coos Bay
 - Clackamas
- Drop in centers provide a safe space for youth to connect, receive support, and access resources
- Youth Era Employs:
 - Peer Support Specialists
 - Wraparound Youth Partners



Video Time

- <https://www.kgw.com/video/features/hello-rose-city/kgws-talk-about-it-initiative-youth-era/283-50f35921-752a-4011-bd44-4621aa1b5de7> (5 min 48 sec)
- <https://vimeo.com/834581956/d6f573eec4?share=copy> (1 Minute)

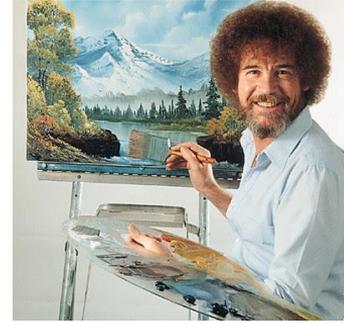


What is Peer Support?

- Peer Supports provide a safe environment for young people to talk about their lives.
 - This can involve anything from talking about their mental health to putting together a resume
- Peers travel to the youth's location and offer one-on-one peer support
- Anyone between the ages of 12 and 25 may utilize our services
- Youth are not required to participate in mental health services or have any specific insurance to work with a Peer Support Specialist



Youth Era in Columbia County



- Our services started in 2020 at the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Originally funded to open a drop in center, the pandemic had other plans and we adapted
- We wanted to see how we could use those funds to support youth in a unique and engaging way
 - Started online events where youth could stay connected as well as virtual 1:1's
 - Bob Ross Tutorials
 - Movie Nights
 - Baking
- COVID-19 had a major impact on all of our mental health as a whole but it was nice for the youth to have an outlet
- After Covid restrictions lifted, we started to find more ways to collaborate with our community members



Community Collaboration

- Find those connected to your mission:
- For us it is:
 - Schools
 - Public Health
 - Juvenile Justice
 - School Based Therapists
 - Community Members
 - Community Based Mental Health
 - DHS
 - Case Managers
 - CPCCO
- One tool we use is Tabling Events

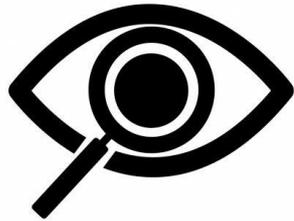


Columbia County Youth Advisory Council

- Collaboration between CPCCO (Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization) and Youth Era.
 - We have participated in Columbia Counties Practice Level Work Group for a few years before being asked to start a youth advisory council in January of 2023
 - Our first official meeting was March, 2023- our first meeting was focused on the respite barrier that our practice level workgroup had been working on
- The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a platform for youth to voice their opinions and influence programs.
- System Navigation:
 - Simplifies access to resources for youth.
 - Strengthens the support network.
- Clatsop County YAC is in the works!!!



Community Engagement: Introduction Scavenger Hunt



Introduction Scavenger Hunt

Find someone who offers services to youth and ask what they do

Ask someone something they have learned from the summit so far

Find someone who hasn't heard of where you work and give your elevator speech

Find someone who is left handed

Find someone who came to this summit last year

Find someone who has lived in their community for 5+ years and ask what changes they've seen for the betterment of their community

Introduce yourself to someone you have never met and tell them your favorite hobby

Ask someone if they could eliminate one barrier affecting their community what would it be and why

Find someone who works in a school



Questions?



Thank you!

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